

KILLED, MAN INJURED, IN HIGHWAY AFFAIR

Government Policy Toward Disabled Veterans Attacked

Legion Report Blames Politics and Red Tape For Alleged Failures

Request Made for \$10,000,000 Appropriation to Equip Hospitals Now Being Constructed—Institutions Said to Have Been Badly Placed

New Orleans, October 15.—Request for a \$10,000,000 appropriation to equip hospitals now being constructed and to build additional hospital for neuro-psychiatric patients is contained in the report of the American Legion's commission for rehabilitation, to be laid before the fourth national convention of the legion tomorrow by Col. A. A. Sprague, head of the rehabilitation commission. The report criticizes the government achievements to date in caustic language.

"The story of hospital construction by the government to date," declares the report, "judging by actual results is a tragedy for the sick, a discredit to the government, and an affront to the American Legion. There is not a redeeming feature in it: politics, promises, plans, failure to prepare anything but a shabby advance, red tape, excuses and contentions, conspired to defeat the actual providing of needed beds."

"It is sincerely hoped," the report continues, "that this nation will benefit by the mistakes, the sometimes hideous errors of the past four years, and that there will be a decisive awakening of the public conscience that will right the wrongs here recited and carry on the program and work outlined by the American Legion."

The report, after commending Congress for enacting beneficial laws, excoriates individual congressmen and senators for what it terms "their endeavors to locate hospitals where they cannot be used, and to keep hospitals where they are not needed, and to secure employment for their friends."

President Harding, the report asserts, decided after conferring with the United States Veterans Bureau, to appoint "co-operative committees on rehabilitation" in various districts. "These committees," the report declares, "would have helped to make the location of hospitals where they are not needed, and to secure employment for their friends."

"At the end of five years," declares the Sprague report, "the government has not succeeded in locating hospitals where they are not needed, and to secure employment for their friends."

"These co-operative committees," the report declares, "would have helped to make the location of hospitals where they are not needed, and to secure employment for their friends."

"On September 15, 1922, there were 5,235 patients in contract hospitals, 1,814 beds, temporary facilities, on government-owned properties. There were 7,774 patients in contract hospitals, 2,635 in tuberculosis, 4,132 in neuro-psychiatric hospitals, and 1,156 in general and surgical hospitals."

"Occupied beds? Yes, a lot of them. Ten thousand of them at that date. Most of them useless because badly placed."

"On September 15, 1922, the report declares, there were 334,000 men sick and wounded in army hospitals in this country and with the American expeditionary force in France."

"Back home," the report asserts, "very little thought had been given to the men who traded their strength and bodies and valiant spirits for victory and peace. One billion dollars was voted by Congress to pay for unfilled war contracts canceled at the armistice. Apparently many were so busy trying to figure out how much the government owed them for canceled contracts that they didn't have time to think of the hospitals that should have been constructed."

Attacks Statement
Referring to the statement of Brig. Gen. C. E. Sawyer, personal physician to President Harding, regarding vacant beds, the report says: "It is very strongly to be considered use of figures and statements that are not capable of proof in regard to adequate facilities and proper care of disabled ex-servicemen will do incalculable harm, as they are bound at first to mislead the public, and lead to a wholesale disapproval of the men who were killed, it will shake confidence in the administration and the integrity of its assertions. It is doing everything in its power to give proper hospital facilities, treatment and care."

The report eulogizes many of the employees of the United States Veterans Bureau for "unselfish and efficient efforts in behalf of the soldiers" and criticizes other employees for "inefficiency and mismanagement."

"Of the 14 hospitals," the report declares, "the bureau as 'an organization existing for itself, and loyalty to it, or within it as of superior importance to the big human needs for which the bureau is organized.'"

Fire of an unknown origin did damage to the extent of approximately \$7,500 to the freight shed of the Illinois Central freight house on First avenue and Sixteenth street, and also to several freight cars loaded with bales of cotton, yesterday morning. The fire started, it is believed, in one of the several box cars which were standing on a side track in the yards adjoining the building.

All of the cars, about six in number, were loaded with cotton, and were practically consumed. However, the cotton was taken out of the cars before the fire had gained any headway.

Of the 14 bales of cotton which were loaded in the cars, 177 were

IN HIS NEW ROBES

THOUSANDS OF FORMER SOLDIERS GATHERING FOR LEGION MEETING

Convention Expected to Take Action Upon Bonus Question and Other National Issues—Forbes Will Discuss Problem of Caring for Wounded Veterans

New Orleans, October 15.—Soldiers, sailors and marines of four years ago, members of the American Legion, were gathered here tonight for their fourth annual national convention, which begins tomorrow and continues for five days.

It is a convention which is scheduled to accomplish much business and shape policies for future course of the Legion.

Last year's American Legion convention in Kansas City, with Marshal Foch, Admiral Earl Beatty of England, General Diaz of Italy and General Jacques of Belgium as distinguished guests, was a combination of pageant and reunion on a gigantic scale.

What the Legion's future policy will be on adjusted compensation; what, if any, criticism of the compensation measure during the last session of Congress when President Harding's veto was sustained, were, of course, outstanding questions. But they were by no means the only questions of importance to be brought before the Legion convention.

Work for Disabled Men
Discussion of the progress made in caring for the disabled, the work of the United States Veterans Bureau, the part played by Brig. Gen. C. E. Sawyer, the President's personal physician, in connection with hospitalization, were also scheduled for sharp discussion. Col. C. R. Forbes, head of the veterans' bureau, sharply denied by Forbes, who said he was here with a staff of specialists to co-operate with the Legion problems having to do with disabled men.

Fewer Uniforms Seen
Meanwhile the rank and file of the veterans here for the convention poured in in increasing numbers today and tonight from all parts of the country. It was noticeable that there were many less men wearing their uniforms this year than has been the case at previous conventions. Perhaps a good many of the uniforms are worn out—after all, it has been nearly four years since the fighting in the Argonne and along the Meuse. And doubtless a good many civilian waist and collar lines are no longer adapted to the military regalia with their owners brought home from the war four years ago.

Another noticeable feature of the convention was the large number of women who came with their soldier relatives to participate in the festivities which will accompany the convention of the American Legion auxiliary. The women's organization, which meets at the same time.

Summer weather greeted the convention visitors today, and under a brilliant sun, palm trees, oleanders and roses, gave a tropical touch to the setting.

MISS STUNT FLYER
Andalusia, October 15.—(Special.)—Miss Eva Moss, stunt flyer, who was scheduled to be in Andalusia at the third annual fair, October 23 to 28, was almost instantly killed at Chattanooga yesterday, it became known today, and the officials of the fair association were greatly shocked upon receipt of the news.

PREMIER'S COURSE
IS STILL MYSTERY
By Associated Press
London, October 15.—First commentators on the speech of Premier Lloyd George in Manchester, writing in the morning papers today, make

Domestic Crop Estimates
Show Little Change—Government Bond Issue Is Oversubscribed

New York, October 15.—Better prices for farm products and evidences of increased industrial activity marked the last week in business and finance. A rally in grain prices came oddly enough at a time when it was clear that the crisis in the Turkish difficulty had been passed. It was attributed partly to reports of smaller crops abroad. In any event December wheat rose above \$1.09 a bushel.

Domestic crop estimates, made public by the department of agriculture, show on the whole very little change. Wheat is now placed at 89,000,000 bushels, or only 5,000,000 bushels less than in the previous government estimate, while corn is expected to yield 2,850,000,000 bushels, or 21,000,000 bushels less than was forecast on September 1.

Cotton meanwhile rallied to above 22 cents a pound, partly as a belated recognition of the bullish statistical position, and partly because of trade buying, which was withheld pending a settlement of the Near East trouble, has come into the market. Textile mills evidently are planning to extend their activities and are providing for their needs in the matter of the staple. Existing prices are over 3 cents above the recent low and are materially less than 1 cent below the high of last year.

The week's federal reserve statement indicates both an increase in the volume of business and a movement of funds toward agricultural districts. The reserve ratio of the system is nearly 5 per cent below the peak, which was reached at the close of the season of summer dullness. It is still, however, approximately 12 per cent above the corresponding figure for a year ago. Discounts, deposits and note circulation continue to grow. Meanwhile the tendency is toward slightly firmer conditions in the money market, although no sharp

ADVANCE IN PRICE OF EARLY PRODUCE
TWO ARE KILLED IN HEAD-ON COLLISION

Rankin, Ill., October 15.—Two persons were killed and one seriously injured when two loaded cars of the Lake Erie and Western railroad collided head-on here this morning.

The dead are Fred Stevens, fireman of one of the trains, and an unidentified transient known by the name of Brady. John Wolke, also of Tipton, Ind., was injured badly.



Here is the first official portrait of Justice George H. Sutherland of Utah, successor to Justice Clark on United States supreme court bench.

THOUSANDS OF FORMER SOLDIERS GATHERING FOR LEGION MEETING

Convention Expected to Take Action Upon Bonus Question and Other National Issues—Forbes Will Discuss Problem of Caring for Wounded Veterans

New Orleans, October 15.—Soldiers, sailors and marines of four years ago, members of the American Legion, were gathered here tonight for their fourth annual national convention, which begins tomorrow and continues for five days.

It is a convention which is scheduled to accomplish much business and shape policies for future course of the Legion.

Last year's American Legion convention in Kansas City, with Marshal Foch, Admiral Earl Beatty of England, General Diaz of Italy and General Jacques of Belgium as distinguished guests, was a combination of pageant and reunion on a gigantic scale.

What the Legion's future policy will be on adjusted compensation; what, if any, criticism of the compensation measure during the last session of Congress when President Harding's veto was sustained, were, of course, outstanding questions. But they were by no means the only questions of importance to be brought before the Legion convention.

Work for Disabled Men
Discussion of the progress made in caring for the disabled, the work of the United States Veterans Bureau, the part played by Brig. Gen. C. E. Sawyer, the President's personal physician, in connection with hospitalization, were also scheduled for sharp discussion. Col. C. R. Forbes, head of the veterans' bureau, sharply denied by Forbes, who said he was here with a staff of specialists to co-operate with the Legion problems having to do with disabled men.

Fewer Uniforms Seen
Meanwhile the rank and file of the veterans here for the convention poured in in increasing numbers today and tonight from all parts of the country. It was noticeable that there were many less men wearing their uniforms this year than has been the case at previous conventions. Perhaps a good many of the uniforms are worn out—after all, it has been nearly four years since the fighting in the Argonne and along the Meuse. And doubtless a good many civilian waist and collar lines are no longer adapted to the military regalia with their owners brought home from the war four years ago.

Another noticeable feature of the convention was the large number of women who came with their soldier relatives to participate in the festivities which will accompany the convention of the American Legion auxiliary. The women's organization, which meets at the same time.

Summer weather greeted the convention visitors today, and under a brilliant sun, palm trees, oleanders and roses, gave a tropical touch to the setting.

MISS STUNT FLYER
Andalusia, October 15.—(Special.)—Miss Eva Moss, stunt flyer, who was scheduled to be in Andalusia at the third annual fair, October 23 to 28, was almost instantly killed at Chattanooga yesterday, it became known today, and the officials of the fair association were greatly shocked upon receipt of the news.

PREMIER'S COURSE
IS STILL MYSTERY
By Associated Press
London, October 15.—First commentators on the speech of Premier Lloyd George in Manchester, writing in the morning papers today, make

Domestic Crop Estimates
Show Little Change—Government Bond Issue Is Oversubscribed

New York, October 15.—Better prices for farm products and evidences of increased industrial activity marked the last week in business and finance. A rally in grain prices came oddly enough at a time when it was clear that the crisis in the Turkish difficulty had been passed. It was attributed partly to reports of smaller crops abroad. In any event December wheat rose above \$1.09 a bushel.

Domestic crop estimates, made public by the department of agriculture, show on the whole very little change. Wheat is now placed at 89,000,000 bushels, or only 5,000,000 bushels less than in the previous government estimate, while corn is expected to yield 2,850,000,000 bushels, or 21,000,000 bushels less than was forecast on September 1.

Cotton meanwhile rallied to above 22 cents a pound, partly as a belated recognition of the bullish statistical position, and partly because of trade buying, which was withheld pending a settlement of the Near East trouble, has come into the market. Textile mills evidently are planning to extend their activities and are providing for their needs in the matter of the staple. Existing prices are over 3 cents above the recent low and are materially less than 1 cent below the high of last year.

The week's federal reserve statement indicates both an increase in the volume of business and a movement of funds toward agricultural districts. The reserve ratio of the system is nearly 5 per cent below the peak, which was reached at the close of the season of summer dullness. It is still, however, approximately 12 per cent above the corresponding figure for a year ago. Discounts, deposits and note circulation continue to grow. Meanwhile the tendency is toward slightly firmer conditions in the money market, although no sharp

ADVANCE IN PRICE OF EARLY PRODUCE
TWO ARE KILLED IN HEAD-ON COLLISION

W. S. Johnson Shot Through The Heart at Roadhouse On Montgomery Highway

Ben McDempsey Brought to City Jail on Charge of Murder—Young Girl Shot Through the Knee in Melee—Witnesses of the Tragedy Give Entirely Different Versions of the Affair

A man lay dead and a woman was on the ground, shot through her left knee, when the smoke cleared away from a pistol duel between W. S. Johnson, 21, of Pelham, and Ben McDempsey, at the roadhouse of the latter, six miles from the city, on the Montgomery highway. The affair occurred about 12 o'clock last night.

The dead man was Johnson, who was shot through the heart, and the woman was Miss Henry Coranex, 312 Seventeenth street, north.

The remains of Johnson were brought into Birmingham last night, following the arrival of Coroner H. D. Russum and deputies from the county jail on the scene, and are being held at Johns' pending funeral arrangements to be made by relatives. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. R. J. Johnson of Pelham, two brothers and two sisters.

Miss Coranex received medical treatment at the Hillman hospital, where she was brought in the taxi of George Joseph. She was later removed to St. Vincent hospital, where she was resting well late last night.

Deputy sheriffs left the city this morning at 1 o'clock to arrest McDempsey, who it was understood, was waiting for them at the scene of the shooting. They returned with the prisoner at 4 o'clock.

McDempsey claims self defense and stated to the officers that Johnson shot the girl and then drew his gun on him when he shot him.

According to a statement made by Mrs. Rose Barrett Johnson, divorced wife of the slain man, who was present when the shooting occurred, she arrived in Birmingham yesterday from Atlanta, and had secured the taxi driven by Joseph to go to Pelham to attend to the shooting. She said that about that time her husband entered. Mrs. Johnson said that as Johnson appeared in the doorway, McDempsey, without a word, drew his weapon and fired three times, her husband falling to the ground, where he died a few seconds later.

Mrs. Johnson said that McDempsey flourishing his gun, ordered every one out of the place under pain of death. She said that she then, accompanied by H. D. Russum, 1429 Phelan street, south, came back into the city with the injured girl.

When questioned regarding the manner in which Miss Coranex came to be injured, Mrs. Johnson said that she did not know unless the bystanders had shot her.

Mrs. Johnson said that her husband had a pistol in his pocket, although he never had a chance to pull it out.

Different Version
George Joseph, taxi driver, told an entirely different version of the shooting from that of Mrs. Johnson. He said that he had taken Mrs. Johnson and Miss Coranex to Pelham and was on the return trip when Johnson waived him down at McDempsey's place. Joseph said that Johnson ordered McDempsey out of the car, and as she stepped to the ground Johnson fired at her one time with a pistol, the victim falling to the ground. Joseph said that McDempsey then shot Johnson in the back, and as he stepped to the ground Johnson fired at her one time with a pistol, the victim falling to the ground. Joseph said that McDempsey then shot Johnson in the back, and as he stepped to the ground Johnson fired at her one time with a pistol, the victim falling to the ground.

Now the military police of the A. E. F. had a scheme for trapping deserters and malingers. They edged close up behind a suspect and then one of them snapped out "Shun!" in the tones of a drill officer. If the fellow really was a truant from service, force of habit and the shock of surprise together made him come to attention and then he was a gone goosing, marching off to the calaboose.

But when this pair dipped nearer and nearer until they could touch the big darky, and one of them barked the command right in his ear, he merely turned his head and inquired politely: "Speakin' to me, boss?"

To be on the safe side, one of them asked for his papers.

"What kinder papers?"

"Your military papers—your pass—something to identify you by."

"W'y, boss," he asked, "does you need papers to go 'round wid yere in 'Nashure?"

"This ain't 'Nashure," they told him; "this is Paris."

"Paris? My Lawd! Den dat 'splains it."

ENGLAND TO MAKE INTEREST PAYMENT TO AMERICA TODAY

Checks and Treasury Certificates Totalling \$50,000,000 Will Be Paid to Federal Reserve Bank

New York, October 15.—The British government will make the first payment of interest on her American war loans to the United States government tomorrow when checks and treasury certificates totalling \$50,000,000 will be paid to the federal reserve bank here for the federal account of the treasurer of the United States by J. P. Morgan & Co., acting as agents of the British government.

The British loans of approximately \$4,500,000,000 have been for sometime the center of discussion regarding the payment to this country by her war allies of war loans of more than \$11,000,000,000. A British commission with power to negotiate terms for the payment of the British loans is expected to arrive here soon to discuss the situation with Washington officials. According to unofficial advice from London, Great Britain has promised full payment.

Previous payments to the United States by the British government have been for the purchases of supplies and materials to the value of millions of dollars, made during the war.

For several months the British government has been selling gold to this country and also buying dollar exchange in anticipation of the first interest payment on the war loans. J. P. Morgan & Co. estimated the gold shipments at between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

CHILD IS INJURED IN FALL FROM TREE

Pell City, October 15.—(Special.)—Clyde Meehan, seven-year-old son of W. F. Meehan of this place, is at the point of death as the result of a fall from a tree here this afternoon. The child was playing with several comrades when the accident occurred and had not regained consciousness late tonight. Internal injuries are feared.

rang out. He said that he did not see the shooting of Johnson, however.

Coroner Russum, with the assistance of deputies from the sheriff's office, conducted a probe into the double shooting at the scene last night. He will conclude his investigation today.

Now the killing of Johnson last night four murders have occurred in Birmingham and vicinity since Friday at midnight, two of the victims being white men.

My Favorite Stories

BY IRVIN S. COBB

The Epic of Watterson Towers

When two military policemen came upon him in the Gare du Nord, at Paris, one day in the summer of 1918, he made a picture worth looking at. He stood about six feet two in his soles and broken brogans, and he was as black as a coal hole at 12 o'clock at night during a total eclipse of the moon, and he was as broad between the shoulders as the back of a hack. He wore a khaki shirt, a pair of ragged blue overalls and an ancient campaign hat. He didn't appear to be going anywhere in particular; he was just standing there.

Now the military police of the A. E. F. had a scheme for trapping deserters and malingers. They edged close up behind a suspect and then one of them snapped out "Shun!" in the tones of a drill officer. If the fellow really was a truant from service, force of habit and the shock of surprise together made him come to attention and then he was a gone goosing, marching off to the calaboose.

But when this pair dipped nearer and nearer until they could touch the big darky, and one of them barked the command right in his ear, he merely turned his head and inquired politely: "Speakin' to me, boss?"

To be on the safe side, one of them asked for his papers.

"What kinder papers?"

"Your military papers—your pass—something to identify you by."

"W'y, boss," he asked, "does you need papers to go 'round wid yere in 'Nashure?"